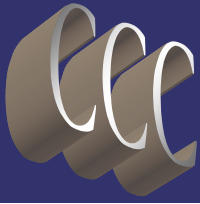


# COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS COUNCIL



SUCCESS IS THE SUM OF SMALL EFFORTS, REPEATED DAY IN AND DAY OUT.  
~ ROBERT COLLIER

Volume 3, Issue 3

October 15, 2009

## Parole Information Management System

*By Cathy Gibson-Beltz, Parole Administrator*

Adult Parole Administration (APA) is excited to announce that on October 1, 2009 APA staff started using Phase I of the Parole Information Management Systems. This is a data management system that has been a dream of Adult Parole Administrators for decades. Past Parole Administrator Jim McKenzie made the development of a data management system for Parole Administration one of his key focuses while he held that position and did an outstanding job of initiating this project with the Community Corrections Council.

In early summer 2008, the

Community Corrections Council signed a contract with the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services to provide \$239,878.50 to fund a data management system for Parole Administration. The Office of the Chief Information Officer (CIO) actually built the system for APA, under the direction of Project Manager Beth Boal. This data system will provide a marked improvement in the amount and quality of data that can be provided to the Nebraska Crime Commission, the Community Corrections Council, the Department of Correctional

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## Sentencing and Recidivism Task Force

*By Jeff Beaty, Community Corrections Council*

In response to the April 24, 2009 announcement by the Director of Correctional Services that the state's correctional institutions are operating at one hundred and forty percent of capacity, the Executive Board of the legislature introduced legislative resolution 171 (LR 171) calling for the creation of a Sentencing and Recidivism task force to examine issues surrounding the sentencing of juveniles and adults in Nebraska.

Subjects included within the jurisdiction of the task force include prison overcrowding and the associated fiscal impact, the ef-

fectiveness and capacity of existing rehabilitative and reentry programs for offenders, and the equality of sentencing for individuals convicted of similar crimes statewide. The task force is to report its findings and recommendations to the legislature on or before January 1, 2011.

The task force is comprised of the following seven members of the legislature selected by the executive board: Sen. Pete Pirsch, Sen. Tom Carlson, Sen. Tony Fulton, Sen. Brenda Council, Sen. Robert Giese, Sen. John Nelson, and Sen. Brad Ashford.

Continued on page 3

## Community Corrections Council Elects New Chair and Vice-Chair

On August 14, 2009, the Community Corrections Council elected Scot Adams to serve as the new Chair of the Council.

The Council also re-elected John Icenogle as Vice-Chair of the Council. Both positions carry a two year term of office.

Adams, the Director of the Division of Behavioral Health, Department of Health and Human Services, and Icenogle, District Court Judge, have served on the Council since its inception in 2003.



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# COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS COUNCIL

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## COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Scot Adams**, Chair, Director, Division of Behavioral Health, DHHS

**John P. Icenogle**, Vice-Chair, District Court Judge

**Mike Behm**, Executive Director of Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

**Esther Casmer**, Nebraska Board of Parole

**Senator Brenda Council**, Nebraska Legislature

**Jeffrey Davis**, Sarpy County Sheriff

**Eleanor Devlin**, Executive Director, NOVA Therapeutic Community

**Thomas Dorwart**, Retired County Judge

**Ellen Fabian-Brokofsky**, Probation Administration

**Darrell Fisher**, Executive Director of the Lincoln Council on Alcoholism and Drugs, Inc

**Karen B. Flowers**, District Court Judge

**Cathy Gibson-Beltz**, Parole Administrator

**Robert Houston**, Nebraska Department of Correctional Services

**Joe Kelly**, Deputy County Attorney

**Robert Lindemeier**, Criminal Defense Attorneys Association

**Senator Pete Pirsch**, Nebraska Legislature

**Janice Walker**, State Court Administrator

## Word from the Council

**By Scot Adams, Chair, Community Corrections Council, Director of the Division of Behavioral Health, Department of Health and Human Services**

I've been a member of the Community Corrections Council (Council) since it was started in 2003. From that very first meeting when I participated as a representative of the private sector treatment community, I was impressed with the Council's diverse membership and the information and perspectives the members brought to community corrections. I also admired Council members' willingness to work together toward a common goal of finding safe alternatives to prison.

Now that I'm Chair of the Council, I thought it would be a good time to reflect on our past accomplishments and to address the challenges that face us ahead.

Since its formation in 2003, the Council has supported and encouraged the development of many innovative programs and services. The Council's Reporting Centers, Fee-For-Service Voucher Treatment Program, Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision (SSAS), and Problem-Solving Courts are all designed to assist offenders in obtaining the support they need to stay out of prison.

Those programs and services have helped make Nebraska one of the nation's leaders in developing alternatives to prison, and it's a credit to all of the Council members who work together to make that happen. The Community Corrections Council is made up of 20 members. Members represent all three branches of government (legislative, judicial, executive) as well as the private sector and tend to look at issues from different perspectives.

Strong leadership helps bring those perspectives together. For his leadership on the original legislation that created the Council and for his guidance and support throughout the years, I'd like to thank

former Senator Kermit Brashear. I know I have some big shoes to fill as Council Chair.

The progress we've made over the years in community corrections is exciting but the issues we continue to face are challenging. The good news is we have this Council and great resources like our web site, <http://ccc.nebraska.gov/>, which documents our efforts and progress. Our Council has also made a financial commitment to programs and services and continues to emphasize training and education for probation officers.

It truly is an honor to chair this important group, and I'm looking forward to working with the whole team as we continue our efforts in Nebraska.



Scot Adams, Ph.D.

Chair, Community Corrections Council

Director, Division of Behavioral Health, Department of Health and Human Services

## The Nebraska Administrative Office of the Courts is awarded grant funding for evaluation.

The \$186,650 federal grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance will be used to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of Nebraska's 23 drug courts, 1 Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Court and 1 young adult problem solving court based on a drug court model.

### Sentencing and Recidivism Task Force - continued from page 1

The task force met for the first time on July 15, 2009 and selected Senator Pete Pirsch to chair the task force and Senator Brenda Council to serve as Vice-chair. A public hearing was held on August 13, 2009 in which the state's criminal justice agencies, judges, law enforcement, experts in the field and the public were invited to testify.

Testifiers were asked for recommendations on how to most effectively reduce the rate of recidivism for offenders, how the state might address the prison overcrowding issue, and how to ensure that sentences are being fairly and equitably imposed across the state.

The hearing included testimony from the Director of Corrections,

District and Juvenile Judges, the Executive Director of the Community Corrections Council, the Probation Administrator, the chair of the Parole Board and many others.

The task force is currently reviewing the information received at the August hearing and prioritizing the issues it would like to address over the next year. An update on the progress of the task force will be presented by Senator Pirsch at the next Community Corrections Council meeting on November 13th, 2009.

To see LR171 in entirety, visit the Nebraska Legislature online:

<http://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/Current/PDF/Intro/LR171.pdf>

#### Task force hears testimony on state's prison system problems

By JoAnne Young / Lincoln Journal Star

Thursday, August 13, 2009

[http://www.journalstar.com/news/local/article\\_c9d8b286-8825-11de-b8cc-001cc4c002e0.html](http://www.journalstar.com/news/local/article_c9d8b286-8825-11de-b8cc-001cc4c002e0.html)

#### Task force meets to tackle Nebraska prison issues

By JoAnne Young / Lincoln Journal Star

Wednesday, July 15, 2009

[http://www.journalstar.com/news/local/article\\_02eadc96-bc4b-56dc-964e-8f115e005c93.html](http://www.journalstar.com/news/local/article_02eadc96-bc4b-56dc-964e-8f115e005c93.html)

### Parole Information Management System - continued from page 1

Services, the Supreme Court, the Nebraska Board of Parole and all other criminal justice agencies in Nebraska who may want to access it. The development of this data system is a major step in Parole Administration being able to evaluate the effectiveness of a variety of parole programs in its efforts to pursue best practices.

The development of this system, as noted above, was directed by Project Manager Beth Boal, Lead Application Analyst for the Office of the CIO. She, along with a host of programmers, specifically Bishal Shrestha and Vishwa Patel, met with Adult Parole staff multiple times to ensure that the system would be user friendly for the Parole Officer and capture the data needed for outcome measures needed for accreditation by the

American Correctional Association (ACA), as well as provide the data needed by the agencies listed in the above paragraph.

Phase I of the Parole Information Management System allows the Parole Officers to do their contact notes in Web Suite. They are now entering all special conditions, directives, residence information, employment/educational programs, Supervision Case Plan/Personalize Plan, and vehicle information. Parole Administration's risk assessments, violation reports, abscond reports and adult placements worksheets have been on Web Suite for quite some time.

Phase II will include all disciplinary information (except violation reports); all hearing results, life time sex offender information, progress reports and the interface with Ne-

braska Probation Management Information System (NPMIS) to access Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision (SSAS) and Fee For Service Voucher Program information. Phase II is expected to be operational November 1, 2009.

This is truly a time of transition for Parole Administration and I am very grateful for the thousands of hours of work. Thank you to the Community Corrections Council, Probation Administration, the Office of the CIO, the Department of Corrections, and all of the Parole Officers/staff who have devoted so much time to the project; and to past Administrator Jim McKenzie for being a visionary all those years ago and initiating the project.



## Community Corrections in the News!

The Community Corrections Council and Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision (SSAS), were featured in the Omaha World Herald on Sunday, September 27, 2009.

To read "Gridlock stymies prison alternative", go to:

<http://www.omaha.com/article/20090927/NEWS01/709279876>

The Department of Correctional Services, Community Correctional Center located on West Van Dorn in Lincoln received acknowledgement on it's garden in an article written by Nancy Hicks and posted in the Lincoln Journal Star on Monday, August 3, 2009.

To read the article "Lincoln Community Correctional Center's garden saves money for state" online, visit:

[http://www.journalstar.com/news/local/article\\_f8934f68-7fc0-11de-b53d-001cc4c03286.html](http://www.journalstar.com/news/local/article_f8934f68-7fc0-11de-b53d-001cc4c03286.html)

## Council sets meeting dates for 2010

During the September 18, 2009 meeting, Council members approved the following meeting dates for 2010:

February 12, 2010  
March 19, 2010  
May 21, 2010  
June 18, 2010 - Tentative  
August 6, 2010  
November 5, 2010

Meetings will be held at Bryan LGH College of Health Sciences and begin at 9:00 a.m.

All meetings are open to the public.

The Community Corrections Council will finish 2009 with meetings scheduled on November 13, 2009 and December 18, 2009.

Visit us at :

<http://ccc.nebraska.gov/>

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